GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3656
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
POLICY ON UTILISATION OF WATER
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplating to formulate any policy for proper utilisation of water in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to formulate any scheme to store the water which flows into sea through rivers in times of flood and excess rains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c) National Water Policy - 2002 provides for proper utilisation of water in the country. Relevant para of the National Water Policy, 2002 are as under:

3.1 Water resources available to the country should be brought within the category of utilizable resources to the maximum possible extent".

3.2 Non-conventional methods for utilisation of water such as through inter-basin transfers, artificial recharge of ground water and desalination of brackish or sea water as well as traditional water conservation practices like rainwater harvesting, including roof-top rainwater harvesting, need to be practiced to further increase the utilisable water resources. Promotion of frontier research and development, in a focused manner, for these techniques is necessary.

3.4 Watershed management through extensive soil conservation, catchment-area treatment, preservation of forests and increasing the forest cover and the construction of check-dams should be promoted. Efforts shall be to conserve the water in the catchment.

3.5 Water should be made available to water short areas by transfer from other areas including transfers from one river basin to another, based on a national perspective, after taking into account the requirements of the areas/basins.

To achieve the above objectives appropriate schemes are formulated by the State Governments as per their priorities. The Ministry of Water Resources has also recently taken up a pilot scheme on "National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" and a scheme on "Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Rainwater Harvesting" is also under active consideration.